

U.S. Serial No. 10/594,777
Response and Amendment dated September 10, 2010

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following paragraph on page 5, line 12, with the following paragraph:

Fig. 2(a) is an exploded view of module 208.

Please add the following paragraph on page 5, line 15, with the following paragraph:

Fig. 3(a) is an exploded view of module 240.

Please add the following paragraph on page 5, line 24, with the following paragraph:

Fig. 6(c) is an exploded view of module 6208.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

At the main deck level (Figure 1(d) and Figure 5 show this most clearly), a retractable working platform 132 is provided for handling such modules and connecting them to suspended pipe, for example. This platform is associated with a hang off clamp 133 in a known manner. Similarly, an A-frame 134 is mounted on a raised working deck 136 for further versatility in handling objects other than continuous pipe cable, this being best seen in Figures 3 and 4.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

Firstly it will be seen in Figure 6(a) that the extension of the raised working deck 6136 is visible, and supported below by a fixed structure 6300. Radius controller segments 6220 and 6210 are fitted on top of a removable module 6208, but in this example the winch 6214 is located lower in the module 6208, and it co-operates with a sheave 6302 mounted in the radius controller section 6220. The functions of these elements is the same as in Figure 1, however.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

The structure is again moved from upright to horizontal by pivoting about a pivot 6236, and in this example the hydraulic ram 6304 responsible for this movement is shown (in practice two or more rams will be provided and operate in parallel). In this second example, however, the pivot point 6236 is not fixed with respect to the deck, but is moveable. Specifically, pivot 6236 is at the end of an arm 6306, which in turn is connected to the deck at a pivot 6308. Ram 6304 acts not between the structure 202 and the deck, but between the structure 202 and an intermediate point on arm 6306. As will be illustrated with reference to Figure 7(a) to (h), this allows the same ram arm 6306 to perform the two actions of pivoting the structure down to horizontal and retracting it inboard to make room for the overboarding sheave 6242, while also separating those actions. This provides more design freedom than the single pivot 236 in the first example. The articulated structure 6202/6306 can be moved using significantly less powerful

rams than would be required to move the structure 202 as a unit. Depending on the exact layout, it may also allow the heavy tensioner 6204 and the working deck 6136 to be mounted lower, aiding stability of the vessel overall.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 23, with the following amended paragraph:

For steps (e) to (h), ~~the a pin (not shown)~~ connecting arm 6306 to the fixed structure 6300 is now removed, so that the arm is free to pivot now about the second pivot 6308, fixed on deck. This changes the action when the ram 6304 subsequently expands again. Following the sequence of steps (e) to (h) in the drawing, and watching the position of structure 6202 relative to the portion of fixed structure 6300 which is shown for comparison, it will be seen how expansion of ram 6304 now causes the structure 6202 to cant slightly, but also to be displaced horizontally away from the stern of the vessel. At the end of the movement, with ram 6304 fully extended, the structure 6202 is again fully horizontal.